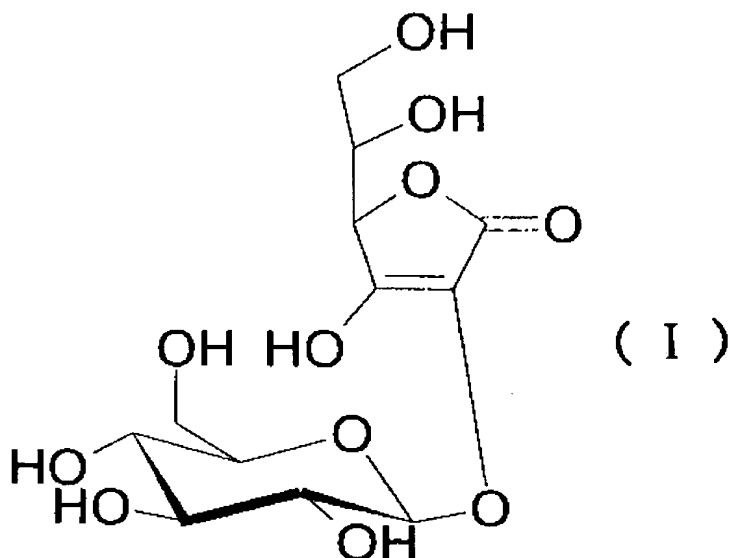


Abstract

A composition for external use, comprising
2-O-(β -D-glucopyranosyl)ascorbic acid represented by the
5 formula (I):



or a salt or ester thereof which is safe to the human body, and
a koji mold or a processed koji. The composition for external
use is excellent in skin permeability, containing an ascorbic
10 acid derivative which is excellent in stability, utilized
persistently in the living body, and strong in antioxidant
activity, and has little skin irritation.